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SUBJECT: DUTCH INITIATIVES TO COUNTER TORTURE

REF: STATE 70129

(SBU) Torture is one of six major priorities of the Dutch human rights strategy, according to Meline Arakelian of MFA's Human Rights, Good Governance and Humanitarian Aid Department. On July 22, PolMilOff discussed the issues from reftel with Arakelian, who iterated that the Dutch mostly work within the larger framework of the EU on these issues. Arakelian stated the preponderance of Dutch involvement is through funding various NGOs; additionally, discretionary funds are also dispersed to their embassies for local projects. She lamented that despite world-wide efforts, little progress has been made except for an increased awareness. Arakelian welcomed the U.S. taking the initiative to counter torture and recommended active support of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), the UN Fund for Victims of Torture, the International Rehabilitation Center, and the Center for Torture Victims (CVT).  
GALLAGHER